

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of procuring a component, comprising the steps of:

establishing at least one bid criterion ~~a bid criteria~~ for said component;

establishing a first bid request ~~in response~~ corresponding to said at least one bid criterion ~~bid criteria~~;

identifying at least one potential supplier for said component;

submitting said bid request to said at least one potential supplier;

receiving a bid response from at least one of said at least one potential supplier;

comparing said bid response with said at least one bid criterion ~~bid criteria~~;

determining that said bid response is undesirable ~~in response to~~ based on said comparison;

modifying said at least one bid criterion for said component ~~bid criteria~~ in response to said bid response being undesirable;

establishing a second bid request ~~in response~~ corresponding to said modified at least one bid criterion ~~bid criteria~~;

identifying at least ~~one second~~ one second potential supplier;

submitting said second bid request to said at least ~~one second~~ one second potential supplier;

receiving a second bid response from at least one of said at least one second potential supplier ~~second potential suppliers~~; and

selecting at least one of said at least one second potential supplier ~~second potential suppliers in response to~~ based on said second bid response.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of modifying said at least one bid criterion for said component ~~bid criteria~~ includes the ~~steps~~ step of ~~[[:]]~~ establishing a plurality of bid criteria corresponding to a plurality of subcomponents of said component, ~~said subcomponents forming at least a portion of said component; and~~  
~~modifying said bid criteria in response to said plurality of subcomponents.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ modifying said plurality of bid criteria includes ~~the step of modifying said bid criteria in response to at least one of a design, a function, and a cost~~ ~~[[,]]~~ associated with at least one of said subcomponents.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 2, wherein the step of establishing said second bid request includes the step of requesting ~~at least one of a purchase of at least one of said~~ plurality of subcomponents, ~~a fabrication of at least one of said subcomponents, and an assembly of said subcomponents to form said~~ component.

6. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

assembling said plurality of subcomponents to form said component ~~with a second component~~; and  
assembling a system ~~in response to~~ based on said component assembly.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer based method of procuring a component, comprising the steps of:

establishing at least one bid criterion ~~a bid criteria~~ for a component;  
establishing a bid request ~~in response~~ corresponding to said at least one bid criterion ~~bid criteria~~;  
posting said bid request on a web site;  
receiving ~~[[a]]~~ at least one bid response from at least one potential supplier;  
subsequent to receiving at least one satisfactory bid response, selecting at least one of said at least one potential supplier to supply said component ~~in response to said bid response~~;  
subsequent to receiving no satisfactory bid responses, substituting at least one alternative bid criterion for said at least one bid criterion for said component  
~~procuring said component from said supplier; and~~  
~~integrating said component with a system, said system including at least a second component.~~

8. (Original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 7, wherein said bid request is an open bid request.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer based method, as set forth in claim ~~[[8]]~~ 7, further comprising, subsequent to receiving no satisfactory bid responses, the steps of:

~~comparing said bid response with said bid criteria;~~

~~modifying said bid criteria in response to said bid response being an undesirable bid;~~

~~establishing a second~~ an alternative bid request directed to subcomponents of said component ~~in response to said modified bid criteria~~ based on said at least one alternative bid criterion;

~~establishing at least one second potential supplier;~~

submitting said ~~second~~ alternative bid request to said ~~at least one second one~~ alternative potential suppliers ~~[[;]]~~

~~receiving a second bid response from at least one of said at least one second potential supplier.~~

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method of procuring at least one component associated with a custom system, comprising the steps of:

establishing a custom system design, said design including a plurality of components;

establishing a bid criteria for at least one of said plurality of components;  
establishing a bid request in response to said bid criteria;  
identifying at least one potential supplier for said at least one of said plurality of components;  
submitting said bid request to said at least one potential supplier;  
receiving a bid response from at least one of said potential supplier;  
comparing said bid response with said bid criteria;  
modifying said bid criteria in response to said modified bid response being an undesirable bid;  
establishing a second bid request in response to said modified bid criteria;  
establishing at least one second potential supplier;  
submitting said second bid request to said at least one second potential suppliers;  
receiving a second bid response from at least one of said second potential supplier; and  
selecting one of said second potential suppliers to supply said component, in response to said second bid response.

12. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the step of establishing said second bid request includes the step of requesting fabrication of at least one of said plurality of subcomponents.

13. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the step of establishing said second bid request includes the step of requesting assembly of at least two of said plurality of subcomponents to form said component.

14. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein said plurality of bid criteria includes a design associated with at least one of said subcomponents.

15. (New) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein said plurality of bid criteria includes a function associated with at least one of said subcomponents.

16. (New) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 9, further comprising the step of posting said alternative bid request on a web site.

17. (New) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 9, further comprising, subsequent to receiving no satisfactory bid responses, the step of receiving at least one bid response from said alternative potential suppliers.

18. (New) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising, subsequent to receiving no satisfactory bid responses, the step of selecting at least one of said alternative potential suppliers to supply said subcomponents.

19. (New) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 18, further comprising, subsequent to receiving no satisfactory bid responses, the step of procuring

said component from said selected at least one supplier selected among the alternative potential suppliers.

20. (New) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein said alternative bid request relates to a cost of each of said subcomponents and at least one of a design and a function associated with said subcomponents.